AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 34, 35, and 36. Please cancel Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11, 13-33. The Claim listing below will replace all prior versions of the Claims in the application.

Claim Listing

1.-33. (Canceled)

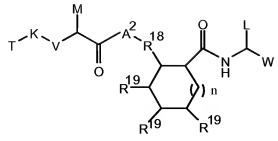
34. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising:
    a) a compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s 1-33]] 39 in an amount effective to inhibit HCV NS3 protease; and
    b) a pharmaceutically suitable carrier.

35. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The use of a compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s 1-33]] 39 or a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 34 in the manufacture of a medicament for inhibiting serine protease activity in a patient.

36. (Withdrawn) The use according to claim 35, wherein the serine protease is HCV NS3 protease.

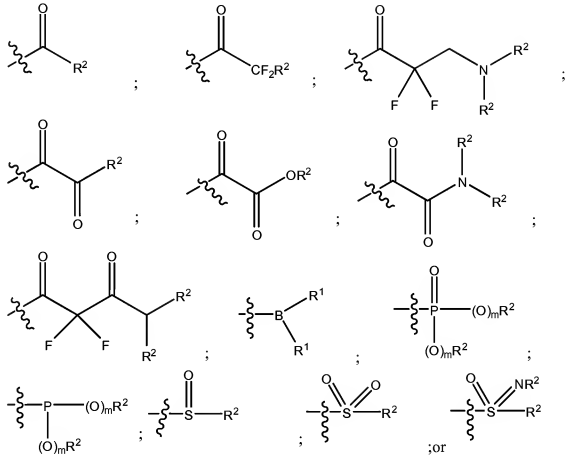
37. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The use of a compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s 1-33]] 39 or a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 34 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing hepatitis C viral infection in a patient.

38. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound of the formula (I):



wherein:

W is:



wherein:

m is 0 or 1;

each R^1 is hydroxy, alkoxy, or aryloxy, or each R^1 is an oxygen atom and together with the boron, to which they are each bound, form a 5-7 membered ring, wherein the ring atoms are carbon, nitrogen or oxygen;

each R^2 is independently hydrogen, fluorine, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl, aralkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, heteroaralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heterocyclylalkenyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl; or two R^2 groups, which are bound to the same nitrogen atom, form together with that nitrogen atom, a 5-7 membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring system; wherein any R^2 carbon atom is optionally substituted with J;

J is alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, aralkoxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkoxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyloxy, heterocyclylalkyl, keto, hydroxy, amino, alkylamino, alkanoylamino, aroylamino, aralkanoylamino, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, carboxamidoalkyl, halo, heteroaryl, cyano, nitro, formyl, acyl, sulfonyl, or sulfonamido and is optionally substituted with 1-3 J^1 groups; and

J^1 is alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyloxy, keto, hydroxy, amino, alkanoylamino, aroylamino, carboxy, carboxyalkyl, carboxamidoalkyl, halo, cyano, nitro, formyl, sulfonyl, or sulfonamido;

L is alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, wherein any hydrogen is optionally replaced with halogen, and wherein any hydrogen or halogen atom bound to any terminal carbon atom is optionally replaced with sulfhydryl or hydroxy;

each M is independently alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, cyclohexylmethyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaralkyl, and is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 J groups, wherein any alkyl carbon atom may be replaced by a heteroatom;

R^{18} is a bond, $-N(R^{11})-$ or $-C(O)-$;

R^{11} is hydrogen or C1-C3 alkyl;

each R^{19} is independently -H or $-R^{21}$-aryl, or 2 adjacent R^{19} may be bound to one another to form a 5-7 membered aromatic ring; wherein any R^{19} is optionally substituted with 1 to 4 independently selected J^1 groups;

each R^{21} is independently C1-C3-straight or branched alkyl, C2-C3-straight or branched alkenyl, O-(C1-C3)-straight or branched alkyl, or O-(C2-C3)-straight or branched alkenyl;

n is 0 or 1;

the ring to which R^{18} and R^{19} are attached may be saturated, partially saturated, aromatic or fully unsaturated; and 1 to 3 carbon atoms that make up the ring to which R^{18} and R^{19} are attached are optionally replaced with a heteroatom which is independently selected from O, S, S(O), $S(O)_2$, or $N(R^{11})$;

A^2 is a bond or $-N(R^{11})-R^{17}(M)-R^{22}-$, wherein

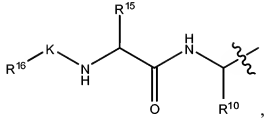
R^{17} is –CH or –N-; and

R^{22} is $-C(O)-$ or $-S(O)_2-$;

V is a bond, $-CH(R^{11})$, -O-, -S- or $-N(R^{11})-$;

K is a bond, -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -S(O)-, $-S(O)_2$, or $-S(O)NR^{11}-$; and

T is $-R^{12}$, -alkyl-R^{12}, -alkenyl-R^{12}, -alkynyl-R^{12}, $-OR^{12}$, $-N(R^{12})_2$, $-C(O)R^{12}$, $-C(=NO\text{-alkyl})R^{12}$ or



,

wherein:

each R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkylidenyl, or heterocycloalkylidenyl, and is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 J groups; or a first R^{12} and a second R^{12}, together with the nitrogen to which they are bound, form a mono- or bicyclic ring system optionally substituted with 1 to 3 J groups;

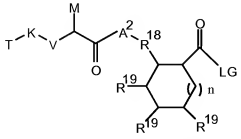
R^{10} is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, carboxyalkyl, or carboxaminoalkyl, and is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 J groups;

R^{15} is alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, carboxyalkyl, or carboxaminoalkyl, and is optionally substituted with 1 to 3 J groups; and

R^{16} is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, or heterocyclyl;

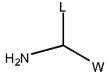
comprising the step of:

reacting a compound of formula (II):



, wherein LG is OH or an appropriate leaving group and the other substituents are as defined above;

with a compound of formula (III):



, wherein the NH_2 group is optionally protected and the variables are as defined above; in the presence of a coupling reagent, provided that the compound of formula (II) or the compound of formula (III) is optionally bound to a resin.

39. (Previously Prenseted) A compound represented by a structural formula selected from: